

**Minutes of the
North Carolina State Board of Education
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
April 4, 2012**

The North Carolina State Board of Education met after the Board Committees concluded their work and the following members were present:

William Harrison, Chairman
Wayne McDevitt, Vice Chair
Melissa Bartlett
Christine Greene
Shirley Harris

Kevin Howell
John Tate
Patricia Willoughby
Jean Woolard

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent
Earlie Coe, Local Board Member Advisor
Don Martin, Superintendent Advisor

Rob Jackson, Principal of the Year Advisor
Jennifer Facciolini, Teacher of the Year Advisor
Tyronna Hooker, Teacher of the Year Advisor

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION

Chairman William Harrison called the Wednesday session of the April State Board of Education meeting to order and declared the Board in official session. He noted that the Board had just completed its Committee meetings for the day, and will hold the official State Board meeting on Thursday morning, at which time the Board will vote on Action items.

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chairman Harrison reminded Board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under Chapter 138A. He asked if members of the Board knew of any conflict of interest or any appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before them during this meeting. There were no conflicts of interest communicated at this time. The Chairman then requested that if, during the course of the meeting, members became aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest that they bring the matter to the attention of the Chairman. It would then be their duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

Chairman Harrison shared that on April 3, the State Board held a special meeting to hear from superintendents from across the state. The goal of the meeting was for the State Board to hear, in very specific terms, about the fiscal challenges LEAs have faced for the last few years and will continue to face in the foreseeable future.

Sharing that most of the news articles in the *Clips* were devoted to the session on Tuesday with superintendents, Chairman Harrison noted that Board members could pick up a hard copy of the *Clips* in the State Board Lounge. He talked briefly about Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger's tweet which stated that Governor Perdue continues to spread information about education, and the NC General Assembly restored more than 2,000 state-funded teachers she cut; and that Representative Holloway communicated that this April 3 session was political in nature. Chairman Harrison expressed regret that everything turns into a partisan issue, and that everyone needs to come together to support public education. Board members were asked to share their individual perspectives from the meeting.

Vice Chair McDevitt felt that the session was valuable and a good investment; there was passion and emotion from the participants. He noted that there will be consequences, but they will not be political. The consequences will be to the students and the economy of the state. He agreed that everyone needs to work together for the common good. Themes from the meeting included shifting the burden to the local government; postponing the inevitable; hidden costs including retirement; and the cumulating negative impact on the business of public education. Another recurring theme was don't let anyone declare failure, whose responsible for the link between education, the vision of a good job and the quality of life, and "aspirational goals." We should not have to convene superintendents, according to Mr. McDevitt, to ask what to do in order to get by. He stated that the system is backward and disappointing. He also stated that North Carolina is richly blessed and is a state with a rich history. There are tough times ahead with a lot of stress and no one should have to apologize for making hard decisions, and we do not want to look back years from now and say we are sorry for not standing up for the right things.

Board member Tate shared that he was struck on Tuesday that we choose not to reinvest in a responsible fashion; it is criminal in a business way that we are essentially starving our ability to deliver a quality product to the marketplace and robbing the dignity of the future of our kids. In addition, Mr. Tate noted that we have an additional \$225 million problem looming in the future when the EduJobs funds run out on June 30, and another \$75 million in discretionary cuts; a total of \$300 million will need to be absorbed. He shared that we must get creative with alternative pathways. He reflected briefly about the discussion concerning prison systems yesterday and suggested taking the savings of non-violent offenders and putting that savings into education. Instability for students and professionals in the field through time, inadequately staffed schools, and lack of professional development were other issues discussed by Mr. Tate. In closing remarks, he shared his thoughts about the following quote used on Tuesday by one of the superintendents that "a free society is dependent upon an educated society."

Board member Willoughby prefaced her comments by repeating a quote from Tuesday as well, "Every child, every day." She noted several recurring themes: commitment to Pre-K – to figure out how to deliver long-term positive results; and the importance of the early college experience as expressed by the two students who spoke during the Northeast RESA presentation. She noted that it was remarkable to hear what an early college school experience had done for them such as meeting higher expectations and the intergenerational affect. Mrs. Willoughby stated that it is hard to capture those things in quantitative data, but in qualitative research everyone needs to remember that it is academically valued and it is important to capture qualitative details of this nature. She also referenced the Simpson-Bowles plan in which Allan Simpson stated that not since WWI has this nation been asked for a shared sacrifice. She noted that on Tuesday she heard a lot of shared sacrifice among the school communities across the state, but maybe that sacrifice is not shared as widely as we would hope.

Board member Howell stated that we take for granted the number of advisors that sit around the State Board table. He noted that Tuesday was an eye-opener because there were many individuals present in leadership positions that came from different backgrounds. He noted that one individual shared that his father was a dropout and another that he had come from a broken home. Their dedication, energy and worth, and what education meant to them was visible. Their passion was encouraging. We never should compromise on the education of our children, according to Mr. Howell.

Board member Bartlett shared that she herself was an at-risk learner and these innovative programs really do make a difference. She noted that whatever happens in the next 12 months will make a huge impact on our kids' lives, and she promised that it would be her number one priority to communicate all of the behaviors and the actions that are going to negatively impact kids, specifically who does what.

Board member Greene shared that at the beginning of the session on Tuesday she felt uncomfortable because it appeared it was us against them; however, she soon realized that the superintendents were well aware of where the cuts originated. She mentioned several themes: local funding will never work for the schools because the state owes an education to every child. She was pleased that someone mentioned the message of this Board that, we the schools of North Carolina, are not failing. She also noted the judge's point of the incarceration cost per day as opposed to the cost of a student per day; \$267 per day for prison vs. \$50 per day to keep a child in school. Another theme mentioned was mandates without funding which is something that the State Board can have an impact on, according to Mrs. Greene. In closing comments, she talked about accepting responsibility without blaming others first.

Board member Woolard thought it was a productive day and one of the best activities since she has been a Board member. She shared that hearing the different perspectives was important, and the passion and dedication was apparent. Ms. Woolard was impressed with the variety of ways superintendents chose to express what was occurring in their regions. She noted that it was difficult for her to relate to anything in education and not connect it with politics, but hoped that it will have an effect on the legislature. She hoped that at some point we could look past the partisan politics and be for the children. She was struck in that the districts were looking for the State Board and the legislature to find a viable solution. While we do not control the funding, she also noted that the State Board can reduce additional mandates without funding; she provided several examples.

Superintendent Advisor Martin noted that it was clear that all of the cuts will impact children through job reductions, larger class sizes, etc. He spoke about the energy it takes to deal with larger class sizes – something that cannot be measured. The issue of staff development is also critical; while it doesn't hurt immediately, over time there is a huge deficiency in the ability of teachers to respond. He noted that there has never been an event of this nature in the past. Common aspirations were solidified which lead people to action and to do things differently.

Board members talked about additional convocations around values and the aspiration issues – it needs to go back to kids. A brief discussion occurred about using the term “discretionary reductions” which sounds benign and has a negative connotation. Chairman Harrison spoke about the one percent sales tax cut and the impact that has made. In addition, comments were made by Board member Harris about the realities of cuts in terms of shared textbooks, larger classrooms, fewer teacher assistants, etc., all of which have an impact on student achievement.

Principal Advisor Jackson noted that one of things that stood out for him was that many of the superintendents and speakers were products of the North Carolina public school system. The other thing that resonated with Mr. Jackson was our obligation to care for future generations. He shared that, himself included, many individuals are where they are because of the public schools, i.e., teachers and principals who made it possible to achieve at higher levels than those that came before us. He shared that in his school there are classrooms with 40 students and they cannot get enough desks in the room – so it becomes a furniture issue and not just an instructional issue. Regardless of our ideology, when we consider as parents what we want for our own children it gets easier to look across political arguments, according to Mr. Jackson. He noted that his two sons were present in the audience and, from a parent’s perspective, he wants better for them just as his dad did for him. He wants their teachers to have enough time to grade their homework, to go through their essays carefully, and to ensure all students are paying attention in class. Mr. Jackson also directed everyone’s attention to one of the graphics that was distributed during the superintendents’ meeting that shows the number of staff members in public schools versus the number of students. He noted that it quickly captures the impact on children when the number of adults is cut.

Teacher of the Year Advisor Facciolini stated that everyone is doing more with less, lack of supplies, etc. She noted that everyone is exhausted mentally and physically. She shared a specific example from one of the physic classes she recently visited where students were taking tape off paper used in one class so that the next class could use the same paper. She appreciated the opportunity to see the passion expressed by the superintendents on Tuesday. It was that passion that prompted her to call some of the teachers in her district to say “they do get it; they share your passion, your vision, and your goals.”

Local Board Member Advisor Coe shared that he felt all of the superintendents were on the same page. He felt that some were in agony but stressed that the public schools are in good hands. Mr. Coe stated that he would not hesitate to hire any of the current superintendents to lead his district.

Teacher of the Year Advisor Hooker shared that she felt that a lot of strategic meetings took place on Tuesday as a result of the conversations taking place on the stage. Most were honored to have the opportunity to be there. She referenced the analogy of the rubberband – teachers are being stretched and when you’re stretched sometimes you become disproportioned and you break. Formerly working for the criminal justice system, Ms. Hooker shared a memory of a man that told her “if you would have taught me to read, you wouldn’t have to read me my rights.” Time is of the essence, according to Ms. Hooker.

State Superintendent Atkinson shared that as she heard the superintendents talk about the cuts, she could not help but think about a recent meeting with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) where a dialogue occurred about what will happen to our nation if Congress does not act by January 12, 2013; we stand to lose much more than federal funds. One of the takeaways from Tuesday, in addition to the superintendents showing that students are at the core, the superintendents did an excellent job in showing respect and care for teachers. Dr. Atkinson suggested that a follow-up could be to take the video from Tuesday and use parts of it to share with teachers across the state through YouTube or other social media so they can see firsthand what superintendents are saying about the important role that teachers play in our state. It could be a small way to show that people honor the value of teachers and that they have some understanding about the challenges teachers face today as they are called upon to be the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker.

Chairman Harrison publicly expressed appreciation to Ms. Betsy West (Assistant Executive Director, State Board Office) for all of her coordinating efforts to make this event happen.

Vice Chair McDevitt requested copies of the visuals that were used on Tuesday. The request was noted. Mr. Price also stated that the material was available online.

Closed Session

Chairman Harrison asked for a motion to convene in closed session.

Upon motion made by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to convene in closed session to consult with their attorneys on attorney-client privilege matters and to consider the handling of the cases of Key Risk Management v. NC State Board of Education; Teacher Academy v. Department of Public Instruction; Thunderbird Preparatory Academy v. NC State Board of Education; Jefferson Preparatory v. NC State Board of Education; NC Learns, Inc. v. NC State Board of Education; Paula Frances v. DPI State Superintendent Ethics Committee; Ralph David Surridge v. NC Board of Education, June Atkinson, Superintendent; Petitions against the National Board Professional Teaching Standards Appeals Panel and the Department of Public Instruction by: James Blue, 11 EDC 08993; Allison Simpson, 11 EDC 08260; Linda Massi, 11 EDC 06898; Jennifer Waddell Kelly, 11 EDC 06766; and Tammy Reynolds, 11 EDC 07651.

With no other business on the agenda, Chairman Harrison requested a motion to adjourn.

Upon motion made by Mr. Wayne McDevitt and seconded by Mr. John Tate the Board voted unanimously to recess the State Board of Education meeting until Thursday, April 5, at 9:00 a.m.

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North Carolina State Board of Education
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
April 5, 2012**

The North Carolina State Board of Education met and the following members were present:

William Harrison, Chairman	Kevin Howell
Wayne McDevitt, Vice Chair	Reginald Kenan
Walter Dalton, Lt. Governor	John Tate
Melissa Bartlett	Patricia Willoughby
Christine Greene	Jean Woolard
Shirley Harris	

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent	Jennifer Facciolini, Teacher of the Year Advisor
Earlie Coe, Local Board Member Advisor	Tyronna Hooker, Teacher of the Year Advisor
Don Martin, Superintendent Advisor	Amberly Phillips, Student Advisor
Rob Jackson, Principal of the Year Advisor	

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION

Chairman William Harrison called the Thursday session of the April State Board of Education meeting to order and declared the Board in official session. He welcomed onsite visitors, online listeners, and Twitter followers to the meeting, and reminded the audience that the Board held its committee meetings on Wednesday and today will vote on action items and receive reports on other topics. Chairman Harrison expressed his appreciation to Board members for coming a day early to meet with superintendents to talk about the impact budget cuts have had on their school districts over the past three years.

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chairman Harrison reminded Board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under Chapter 138A. He asked if members of the Board knew of any conflict of interest or any appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before them during this meeting. There were no conflicts of interest communicated at this time. The Chairman then requested that if, during the course of the meeting, members became aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest that they bring the matter to the attention of the Chairman. It would then be their duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

Board Member Kevin Howell was recognized to lead the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Harrison asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 29-March 1, 2012, State Board meeting.

Discussion/Comments:

- There was no discussion.

Mr. John Tate made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 29-March 1, 2012, meeting. Seconded by Mr. Kevin Howell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

Northeast Technical School of Agriculture and Biotechnology Announcement

Chairman Harrison reminded Board members that they recently voted to approve the establishment of the Northeast Technical School of Agriculture and Biotechnology in District 1. He explained that this was a collaborative effort between the State Board of Education, New Schools Project, NC State University, the Department of Agriculture, and five school districts in the Northeast.

Lt. Governor Dalton commended the Department, the collaborating LEAs, and other entities that came together for the students in District 1. He noted that the school aligns with the economy in that region focusing on Biotechnology and Agriscience. He explained that this school serves as a format and/or model school for districts who want to embrace a regional school for a specific purpose.

Chairman Harrison recognized Board member Jean Woolard who represents District 1 to make the personnel announcement. After speaking briefly about the recruiting and hiring process, Ms. Woolard introduced the newly hired principal, Mr. Hal Davis, who was present in the audience. She invited Mr. Davis to the podium for comments.

Mr. Davis expressed his commitment to making Northeast Technical School of Agriculture and Biotechnology a school of national acclaim. He thanked all involved for their efforts toward making this school a reality in District 1.

Chairman Harrison noted that Mr. Davis is the former principal of the Bear Grass School.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – 2012 Inductee for the National Teachers Hall of Fame (National Association of Educators)

- Dr. James A. Brooks (Wake County Schools and NC Virtual Public School)

Chairman Harrison prefaced this presentation by sharing that since the inception of the program in 1992, there have been fewer than 100 teachers from 34 states and the District of Columbia inducted into the The National Teachers Hall of Fame (NTHF). The NTHF is the only facility of its kind dedicated to recognizing career teachers, to preserving and promoting education, and to serving our country by inspiring others to enter the teaching profession. A national selection committee representing educational organizations, NTHF membership, and corporate America consider nominations from a pool

of certified public and non-public teachers, active or retired, who have at least 20 years of full-time experience in grades Pre-K-12.

Chairman Harrison congratulated Dr. James A. Brooks (12th grade English and photojournalism teacher, West Wilkes High School, Wilkes County) who is one of only five teachers annually to receive this honor. Chairman Harrison explained that Dr. Brooks and his four fellow inductees will be honored in Washington, DC, on May 8, and again in Emporia, Kansas, location of the Teachers Hall of Fame facility, in June. Dr. Brooks was invited forward to receive a plaque from the State Board of Education recognizing this honor. He was joined by his superintendent, Dr. Marti Hemric and director of development, Dr. Dennis Huggins. The presentation was photographed.

Dr. Brooks thanked the State Board for acknowledging the Hall of Fame recognition and thanked Board members for their work. He spoke humbly about the honor of representing North Carolina and Wilkes County in this capacity. Board member Harris followed Dr. Brooks' comments by sharing some personnel reflections about his character, his passion for the teaching profession and his students.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – 2012 National Online Teacher of the Year

➤ Ms. Leslie Fetzer (Wilkes County Schools)

Chairman Harrison recognized North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) biology teacher Leslie Fetzer of Holly Springs who was recently named America's 2012 "National Online Teacher of the Year" for K-12 education by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL). The 2012 SREB/iNACOL "National Online Teacher of the Year" award recognizes an outstanding online teacher for exceptional contributions to online K-12 education. The review committee selected Fetzer from online educators in public schools and state virtual schools in 26 states.

Chairman Harrison shared that Ms. Fetzer began her career in the pharmaceutical industry as a medical writer before she realized she had missed her calling and became a teacher. Her first teaching job was as a chemistry, biology, and forensic science teacher for the Bolivar-Richburg Central School in Bolivar, NY. She moved to Holly Springs in 2007 and taught chemistry and biology for Holly Springs High School (Wake County Public Schools). In 2009, Fetzer joined NCVPS as a credit recovery teacher, and has been a teacher and instructional leader for the Occupational Course of Study (OCS) Blended Learning Program since it began in 2010.

Ms. Fetzer also was the 2011 NCVPS Teacher of the Year. She was invited forward to receive a plaque from the State Board of Education recognizing this honor. She was joined by her husband and supervisor/mentor Ms. Michelle Lourcey. The presentation was photographed.

Ms. Fetzer spoke briefly about the honor of being recognized as the National Online Teacher of the Year. She thanked the State Board for recognizing her, and shared her excitement about representing North Carolina in this role. In closing comments, she spoke about the importance of her supervisor/mentor and Ms. Freda Lee (DPI Consultant, Intellectually Disabled, Secondary Education/Transition) who have both been instrumental to her success.

KEY INITIATIVES REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**➤ Career and College Ready, Set, Go/Race to the Top (RttT) Update – Mr. Adam Levinson (Director, Race to the Top Program)**

Mr. Levinson provided a brief report about the U.S. Education Department's (USED) onsite monitoring visit that occurred last week. He stated that USED will provide a progress report within a few weeks that will include extensive feedback which he will share with the State Board. Mr. Levinson also shared that initial feedback from USED was that they understood North Carolina's RttT plan and all of the different initiatives in the plan. The NCDPI staff acknowledged to USED several key challenges and explained how the team is working to address them. Mr. Levinson recognized department-wide collaboration to both keep the RttT work on track and to make the USED site visit a success. In response to Mr. McDevitt, Mr. Levinson shared that several RttT staff members will travel to Washington, DC, on May 7 and expect to receive verbal feedback about the site visit at that time.

Mr. Levinson also noted briefly that the RttT leadership had recently completed its tour of the state to kick off communication about the READY Initiative. He thanked members of the State Board for participating in the READY meetings in their home regions, and gave special thanks to Ms. Hooker and Mr. Jackson, who traveled the state with the NCDPI team and were very helpful in conveying key information to teachers and principals.

In closing comments, Mr. Levinson spoke briefly about a recent report from the Center for American Progress that speaks about the progress and challenges of the RttT initiative. He noted that North Carolina was acknowledged as one of the states making good progress. The link to the report is http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2012/03/rtt_event.html.

STEM Affinity Networks: Year 1 Report - Dr. Trip Stallings (NCSU Friday Institute)

Mr. Martez Hill (Executive Director, State Board Office) introduced Dr. Stallings to provide the presentation of the STEM Affinity Networks' first annual evaluation report. Mr. Hill directed Board members to a copy of the full report located in their black notebooks behind the "Other" tab.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Stallings spoke briefly about the two evaluation goals which are to provide formative feedback for building the model for individual STEM schools, the scalable network of STEM schools, and to assess the extent to which the following have been implemented as intended: structure (enrolled schools and network), professional development, curriculum, and partnerships. In addition, he spoke briefly about the data collection process.

In terms of major findings, overall, most of the implementation activities were carried out as proposed and with a high level of quality in the first implementation year. Dr. Stallings noted, however, two major issues hindered optimal implementation: Delays in identifying the composition of schools in the network, and delays in the curriculum development. Dr. Stallings also talked about structure as it relates to school enrollment and implications of school enrollment for project outcomes. In addition, he shared the report findings, including issues for professional development, integrated curriculum, and partnerships.

Board member Tate shared comments regarding the relevance of STEM for students which initiated a brief conversation by Board members. Mr. Tate suggested not limiting the opportunities for students. Major recommendations in the report highlighted by Dr. Stallings include the following six Design Principles:

- Integrate the six NCNSP Design Principles with the components of the STEM vision;
- Rethink the role model responsibilities of anchor schools that are also new schools;
- Develop a plan for those schools that joined the network late to get up-to-speed;
- Reach shared understanding of expectations for the deliverables of curriculum work, and ensure they align with available resources; and
- Provide appropriate structures and supports to teachers to conduct curriculum work.

In response to Board member Greene's question, Dr. Stallings clarified that the nine initial schools chosen to participate in the STEM program were exchanged for other schools that better fit the definition for the STEM Affinity Networks.

In closing comments, Dr. Stallings talked about next steps including, but not limited to, continuing to analyze data and project documents received from the New Schools Project, conducting site visits in the anchor schools, and monitoring online face-to-face networks.

➤ **School and District Transformation – Dr. Pat Ashley (Director, District and School Transformation)**

Dr. Ashley was pleased to announce that, for the first time, preliminary data show that substantial change is beginning to occur in Halifax County. She noted that this report is timely explaining that the Halifax County Commissioners have been debating whether they should engage in bringing merger to the three school districts, and have employed Evergreen Solutions to conduct an analysis of education in Halifax County. Dr. Ashley shared that turning around this school system has been tough work which has been demanding on everyone, has meant extraordinary efforts and in many cases painful decisions. She provided historical data regarding the turnaround efforts including a wholesale replacement of personnel in the central office, and the replacement of ten out of eleven principals over a two-year period. She noted that significant changes have also occurred in classrooms noting that, of the 230 teachers employed in Halifax County, 60 are first-year teachers this year. Dr. Ashley spoke briefly about the challenges in attracting experienced teachers due to the lower salaries offered in Halifax County versus higher compensation offered in other parts of the state.

Preliminary mid-year assessment at Northwest and Southeast Halifax High show classes with 100 percent proficiency more than once with an average compilation of over 70 percent proficiency in those schools. In addition, Dr. Ashley explained that the initial assessment of the third grade reading initiative showed many students were reading 1-2 grade levels behind at the beginning of the school year. She reported that mid-year data show that many students have made over one year's gain.

Dr. Ashley spoke about the efforts over the last two years of RttT to help Halifax integrate into its routine management all of the practices that have led to its success in order to leave the district well prepared to perform at a much higher level.

In closing comments, Dr. Ashley stated that when the turnaround efforts began, ten of the eleven schools in Halifax were in the bottom five percent of the schools in the state, and the district as a whole was the lowest-performing district; significantly lower than any other district; and their two high schools were

the bottom two high schools in the state. Dr. Ashley shared that she did not believe those two high schools will be the bottom two this year.

In addition to Chairman Harrison, State Superintendent Atkinson and several Board members commended Dr. Ashley and the School and District Transformation team for their efforts, leadership and perseverance in helping to make a difference in Halifax County. They talked about the common thread of Dr. Ashley and her staff in providing stability and leadership, and for helping to change the culture in Halifax County. Mr. McDevitt shared that he had a conversation with a group of individuals who are working on the Economic Development Board in that region and noted that these things are always connected.

Dr. Ashley stated that she was hopeful that the success in Halifax County will serve as a model for the nation where the State Board and the Department of Public Instruction have partnered with the school district to support their success.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

NC's READY Initiative

State Superintendent Atkinson reported that NC DPI completed the remaining 13 sessions in its series of regional outreach meetings unveiling the READY Initiative in March, reaching 4,129 teachers, principals and other administrative staff in the eight education districts. While attendance varied somewhat by region, more than 80 percent of our 2,512 schools in North Carolina were represented.

Locations visited in February and March and number of attendees included:

- Greensboro, February 28, 900 attendees
- Elizabeth City, March 7, 150 attendees
- Wilmington, March 8, 625 attendees
- Fayetteville, March 9, 352 attendees
- Raleigh, March 12, 850 attendees
- Hickory, March 15, 500 attendees
- Concord, March 22, 472 attendees
- Asheville, March 23, 300 attendees

The three-hour agenda covered the following topics:

- Remodeling North Carolina's schools
- A framework of support
- Learning and accountability
- Educator effectiveness and support for growth
- Technology; supporting teaching and learning
- District and school transformation: support for change

Participants received a comprehensive toolkit to support them in implementing the READY initiative at the school level. DPI staff devoted hours and hours to make this statewide rollout a reality, particularly Communications Division, panel of speakers, State Board of Education members who brought greetings in many of the eight regions, and our regional volunteers. See www.ncpublicschools.org/ready for more information.

RttT Monthly Highlights of Activities Completed

No monthly report was submitted for March due to preparation for the U.S. Department of Education program review the week of April 2. Program Review agenda included three days convening in Raleigh and site visits to the field.

Site visits were to include school-level roundtables in Durham, Halifax and Person counties.

Monthly reports will resume in April and be included in the May State Superintendent's Report to the State Board of Education.

Superintendent's Quarterly

The Superintendent's Quarterly convened March 28 in Raleigh in conjunction with the NC Association of School Administrators conference, with 93 of the state's 115 local superintendents in attendance.

Agenda topics included:

- An update on Superintendents' Licensure
- A report on the status of the NC Education Cloud
- A preview of issues in the 2012 legislative session
- Updates on the state budget and supplemental budget request
- A report on the virtual school funding formula
- A report on changes in child nutrition guidelines.

Superintendents also were briefed on the READY initiative rollout and given the opportunity to answer questions and provide feedback.

Clarification Regarding Sitting as State Board of Career and Technical Education

In consultation with legal staff, we have concluded that the State Board of Education can sit as the State Board of Career and Technical Education without changing its designation or conducting special meetings because under state statutes the two boards are technically one and the same.

- The Perkins law S.250-5 Section 3 (12) defines the eligible agency as a State board designated or created consistent with State law as the sole State agency. The Law requires that the Board meet not less than four times annually to carry out the responsibilities of the agency (Sec. 121 (a) (3)).
- G.S. § 115C-153 designates the State Board of Education as the State Board of Career and Technical Education.

The Board can comply with SBE policy # (TCS-C-006 (5.13)) that requires the SBE to convene four times per year as the State Board of CTE without the designation of the CTE Board.

Special Recognitions

Dr. Atkinson recognized Dr. Elissa Brown (who was present in the audience) who recently received the "2012 Distinguished Service Award" from the North Carolina Association for the Gifted & Talented (NCAGT). Dr. Atkinson shared that Dr. Brown has been with the Department of Public Instruction in various capacities for five years, is the Director of Teacher and Leader Preparation Programs and Director of Secondary and IHE projects in the Academic Services and Instructional Support Division.

In addition, Dr. Atkinson congratulated former Green Hope High School head soccer coach Andrew Chadwick who finished his coaching career by leading the Falcons to the 2011 NC High School Athletic Association 4A state championship *and* being named ESPN-HS fall national high school boys soccer coach of the year.

Students Gordon Bailey White of Winston-Salem and Ben Stockdale of Tryon were selected to represent North Carolina as the 2011 United States Senate Youth delegates.

Recent Activities of the State Superintendent**☐ Delivered remarks/keynote address at**

- Read Across America event, Reed Elementary School, Waxhaw, NC
- First Gentleman's Students @Work program, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, N.C.
- Dinner with exchange students from Denmark visiting Chowan County
- Exceptional Children Directors' Spring Meeting, Greensboro, NC
- Surry County Rotary Club
- NC Chamber's 70th annual meeting, Durham
- Event honoring National Teacher Hall of Fame Inductee Dr. James Brookes, West Wilkes High School
- Math Counts program, NC School of Science and Math, Durham
- Educator's Appreciation Banquet, Wadesboro
- Collaborative Conference on Student Achievement, Greensboro
- Girls Day of Empowerment, Parkwood Elementary, Durham
- Teach for America, Neil Middle School, Durham
- NC Education Policy Fellows Program Dinner
- VIP Program for student driving safety, Enloe High School, Raleigh
- Celebration of Progress on Five-County Regional School, Plymouth
- NCAE Representative Assembly, Winston-Salem
- Council of Chief State School Officers' Board Retreat and Legislative Conference, Washington, DC
- College Day, Bugg Elementary, Raleigh (See sample college application)
- NC Association of School Administrators' annual conference, Raleigh
- Hispanic Education 2012 Summit, Raleigh
- READY regional meetings

☐ Attended

- Watauga High School, Boone, NC
- Robeson County Schools Central Office staff, Lumberton
- Smithfield Middle School, Smithfield
- Bethel Hill Charter School, Roxboro

In closing comments, Dr. Atkinson spoke briefly about College Day at Bugg Elementary School in Wake County. She distributed a copy of the college application. Vice Chair McDevitt suggested that the process be shared with CFNC. Dr. Atkinson noted that Dr. Elissa Brown works closely with CFNC and would share the idea.

BOARD MEETING AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

ACTION AND DISCUSSION AGENDA

GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE STUDENTS

(Ms. Patricia Willoughby, Chair; Ms. Melissa Bartlett, Vice Chair)

ACTION

GCS 1 – State Graduation Requirements Revision of GCS-N-004

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # GCS-N-004

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin (Director, Division of K-12 Curriculum and Instruction)

Description:

SBE Policy # GCS-N-004 was reviewed and revisions have been suggested to clarify the sequence of high school courses and course names of the mathematics substitution courses.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board review the proposed revisions to policy GCS-N-004.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Willoughby stated that this item has been thoroughly vetted by the GCS Committee over several months.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, and seconded by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to SBE Policy # GCS-L-004, effective 2012-13 and beyond, as presented. (See Attachment GCS 1)

DISCUSSION**GCS 2 – State Literacy Plan****Policy Implications:** N/A

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin (Director, Division of K-12 Curriculum and Instruction)

Description:

The Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Discretionary Grant was awarded to the State of North Carolina in late fall of 2010. One of the requirements of this two-year grant was to write a State Literacy Plan. The plan has been discussed within DPI and with a group of external stakeholders. Changes from the stakeholder groups have been incorporated into the plan.

Five Priority Action Steps

1. Ensure that implementation of the revised standards includes literacy strategies in each content area, focuses on digital literacy and that all Pre K-12 teachers have an indepth understanding of the K-12 College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards and the Common Core Literacy Standards for Science, Social Studies, History, and the Technical Subjects and how they apply to each content area, specific grade-level content requirements and the 21st Century Skills and Themes.
2. Continually update the student assessment processes to provide open-ended and performance assessments. Assessments should be Internet-based and provide data for teachers to diagnose and address student literacy problems. Focused interventions for individualized education should serve as a guide for each student to receive appropriate assistance.
3. Provide opportunities for leadership development for principals, central office staff and literacy coaches, using the online blended model of professional development when appropriate.
4. Enhance preparation and professional development for pre-service and in-service teachers.
 - access to high quality, online professional development using the blended model,
 - additional literacy coaches and
 - consistent emphasis on teaching research-based reading foundations in all teacher preparation programs.
5. Analyze the need(s) for policy revision and development.
 - foundations of reading knowledge for initial and continuing licensure,
 - a system of extra help and assistance to struggling readers, especially middle and high school students,
 - revisions in requirements for license renewal,
 - K-12 assessment in a balanced assessment system,
 - teacher preparation competencies and the role of education partners and trained volunteers in meeting professional development needs in reading.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education review and provide guidance and any additional feedback for further revision in preparation for approving the plan in May.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Patricia Willoughby noted that this item created a lot of discussion during the GCS Committee meeting on Wednesday. She explained that the State Literacy Plan is a living document which will be updated as appropriate. The plan, in its current state, is expected to return for additional discussion and approval in May. She encouraged Board members to provide input prior to the May meeting.
- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the April 2012 meeting and will return for action at the May meeting. (See Attachment GCS 2)

DISCUSSION

GCS 3 – Academic Scholars Program

Policy Implications: GCS-L-003; GCS-N-004

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin (Division of K-12 Curriculum and Instruction)

Description:

The Academic Scholars Program is a rigorous program of courses that exceed SBE graduation requirements. The last revision of the Academic Scholars program was in 2009. The new Essential Standards for Social Studies were approved in December 2010. As a result, an additional graduation requirement was added. The Future-Ready Core Graduation Requirements were updated to reflect this additional requirement. Given the new requirement, it is necessary to update the Academic Scholars Program that will align with the Future-Ready Core Graduation Requirements for students entering ninth grade for the first time in or after 2012-13.

Recommendations:

State Board members are requested to review the attached information and provide comments to staff.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Willoughby noted a robust discussion of this item during the GCS Committee meeting on Wednesday. As a result of the new Essential Standards for Social Studies that were approved in December 2010, an additional graduation requirement was added; therefore, it is necessary to revise the Academic Scholars Program to align with the Future-Ready Core Graduation Requirements. This item will return for action in May.
- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the April 2012 meeting and will return for action at the May meeting. (See Attachment GCS 3)

DISCUSSION

GCS 4 – North Carolina’s Proposed New Accountability Model (2013) – Update on Reporting Timeline

Policy Implications: SBE’s “*Framework for Change*”

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Dr. Tammy L. Howard (Director, Accountability Services)

Description:

The Department of Public Instruction established the Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort (ACRE) to develop and implement a response to the *Framework for Change* adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE). In the *Framework for Change* (June 5, 2008), the SBE directed the Department to examine the K-8 accountability model with a 21st century focus and to develop a new high school accountability model (p. 5, items 6 and 7). The accountability model measures were approved at the January 2012 SBE meeting. An overview of the accountability model business rules and the reporting website will be presented at the April 2012 SBE meeting.

Recommendations:

State Board of Education members are asked to review and comment on the proposals.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Willoughby shared that the GCS Committee received only part of this update on Wednesday. She explained that due to time constraints, the remaining portion of the presentation was delayed until the May meeting.
- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the April 2012 meeting and will return for action at the May meeting. (See Attachment GCS 4)

**HEALTHY RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS
(Ms. Christine Greene, Chair; Mr. Reginald Kenan, Vice Chair)**

ACTION ON FIRST READING

HRS 1 – Alternative Learning Program Application

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-105.47(a); SBE Policy # GCS-Q-001

Presenter(s): Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Dr. Kenneth Gattis (Senior Research and Evaluation Coordinator, Federal Program Monitoring and Support)

Description:

General Statute § 115C-47(32a) requires each LEA to establish at least one alternative school or alternative learning program. Catawba County is submitting a proposal to establish an alternative program site at the Catawba Rosenwald Educational Center. Catawba County previously collaborated

with Hickory City Schools to support the former Catawba Valley High School, which provided alternative education for all Catawba County students.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the application presented to the State Board of Education be approved.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Chair Greene shared that state law requires each LEA to establish at least one alternative school or learning program, and noted a thorough discussion of Catawba County’s proposal during the HRS Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Christine Greene, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Howell, the Board voted unanimously to accept the proposal of Catawba to establish the Alternative Learning Program – Catawba Rosenwald Educational Center as proposed. (See Attachment HRS 1)

**21ST CENTURY PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
(Ms. Shirley Harris, Chair; Mr. John Tate, Vice Chair)**

ACTION

TCP 1 – Proposed Standards for the Evaluation of Instructional Technology Facilitators

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCP-C-006

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Mr. Neill Kimrey (Director, Instructional Technology Division)

Description:

In June 2007, the State Board of Education approved new professional standards for the evaluation of teachers. New standards for the evaluation of Instructional Technology Facilitators, aligned with the new teacher standards, have been developed and are presented for discussion this month. When approved by the Board, these standards will be the basis of new evaluation instruments for Instructional Technology Facilitators to be developed by McREL.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is asked to approve the standards for the evaluation of Instructional Technology Facilitators.

Discussion/Comments:

- Noting a minor correction in the materials located in the black notebook, TCP Committee Chair Harris noted a thorough discussion of these new professional standards for the evaluation of Instructional Technology Facilitators.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Ms. Christine Greene, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Standards for the Evaluation of Instructional Technology Facilitators as revised and presented on Wednesday. (See Attachment TCP 1)

ACTION**TCP 2 – Proposed Standards for the Evaluation of School Library Media Coordinators**

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCP-C-006

Presenter(s): Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Mr. Neill Kimrey (Director, Instructional Technology Division)

Description:

In June 2007, the State Board of Education approved new professional standards for the evaluation of teachers. New standards for the evaluation of School Library Media Coordinators, aligned with the new teacher standards, have been developed and are presented for discussion this month. When approved by the Board, these standards will be the basis of new evaluation instruments for School Library Media Coordinators to be developed by McREL. The existing School Library Media Coordinator standards were approved by the State Board of Education in July 2003.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is asked to approve the Standards for the Evaluation of School Library Media Coordinators.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Chair Harris noted a thorough discussion of this item during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Ms. Christine Greene, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Standards for the Evaluation of School Library Media Coordinators as presented. (See Attachment TCP 2)

ACTION ON FIRST READING**TCP 3 – Approval of Hearing Officers**

Policy Implications: General Statute § S.L. 2011-348; 115C-325 (h1)

Presenter(s): Ms. Katie Cornetto (Staff Attorney, State Board of Education)

Description:

Pursuant to recent legislative changes to the “case manager” process, (G.S. § 115C-325 (h1)), the State Board shall approve no more than fifteen qualified hearing officers. Teachers recommended for dismissal from LEA employment who have career status (and probationary teachers who are recommended for dismissal during a school year) may request a hearing conducted by a hearing officer

prior to action being taken by the local board of education. “[S]pecial consideration is to be given to persons jointly endorsed by the largest membership of each statewide organization representing teachers, school administrators, and local boards of education.” The resumes and qualifications of those recommended for SBE approval by the statewide organizations are attached.

Recommendations:

The State Board shall consider the recommended qualified individuals to be placed on the master list of SBE hearing officers.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Chair Harris reported that staff attorney Katie Cornetto presented a slate of recommended hearing officers for approval during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Shirley Harris, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following eight attorneys to serve as hearing officers: Mr. Phillip R. Dixon; Mr. James Dixon Phillips, III; Mr. Edwin Marion Speas, Jr.; Mr. Peter M. McHugh; Mr. Thomas R. West; Mr. Howard M. Cohen; Mr. Carl Horn, III; and Ms. Arnita Maria Dula to be placed on the master list of SBE hearing officers as presented. (See Attachment TCP 3)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCP 4 – Final Decision in Contested Cases

- **Paula Frances v. Department of Public Instruction State Superintendent’s Ethics Committee 11 EDC 02922**
- **Ralph David Surridge v. North Carolina Board of Education June Atkinson Superintendent of Public Instruction 09 EDC 06818**

Policy Implications: General Statute § 150B-36

Presenter(s): Ms. Katie Cornetto (Staff Attorney, State Board of Education)

Description:

- (1) Ms. Paula Frances filed a petition with the Office of Administrative Hearings contesting the decision to deny her a North Carolina Teaching License. The Administrative Law Judge upheld the agency’s action.
- (2) Mr. Ralph Surridge filed a petition with the Office of Administrative Hearings contesting the decision to revoke his North Carolina teaching license. The Administrative Law Judge upheld the agency’s action.

Recommendations:

The State Board shall issue a Final Agency Decision in the contested case.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Chair Harris reported that discussion and voting on this item was conducted during closed session. The Board’s decision reflects the final agency decision and the recommendations of the administrative law judge.
- There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Under New Business, TCP Committee Chair Shirley Harris reported that the TCP Committee received a report about the following business item from Drs. Lynne Johnson and Elissa Brown:

- IHE (Institutions of Higher Education) Report

**TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SYSTEMS
BUSINESS/FINANCE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
(Mr. Kevin Howell, Chair; Mr. Tom Speed, Vice Chair)**

ACTION

TCS 1 - Policy Regarding Charter Amendments for Existing Public Charter Schools

Policy Implications: G.S. § 115C-238.29D.(d)

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services) and Mr. Joel Medley (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

Description:

With the recent lifting of the state’s charter school cap, more public charter schools will be allowed to open and operate within North Carolina. The approved charter application is incorporated into the charter agreement; and per G.S. § 115C-238.29D(d), material changes to the charter application must have approval of the State Board of Education. With an increasing number of public charter schools, the SBE will also experience a rise in requests for charter school amendments.

The proposed SBE policy is presented to delegate limited authority to the Department to allow certain charter amendments while also delineating the charter modifications that must attain SBE approval. This delegation does require the Department to notify the Board of any approved amendments made on its behalf. The policy concludes by stating that any changes not specifically enumerated in the policy must go before the Board for review.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the SBE accept the Policy Regarding Charter Amendment for Existing Public Charter Schools recommendations as presented from the Office of Charter Schools.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Howell noted a thorough discussion of this item by the TCS Committee on Wednesday.

- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, the Board voted unanimously to accept the policy regarding charter amendment for existing public charter schools recommendations as presented. (See Attachment TCS 1)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCS 2 – Requests for Repayment Waivers of the National Board Certification Fee

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-296.2; SBE Policy # TCP-F-001

Presenter(s): Dr. Lynne Johnson (Director, Educator Recruitment and Development Division) and Dr. Sonja Leathers Brown (National Board Certification Coordinator, Educator Recruitment and Development Division)

Description:

A teacher for whom the state pays the participation fee for National Board Certification and withdraws from the process, fails to complete the process, or completes the process but does not teach in a North Carolina public school for at least one year after completing the process, is required to repay the participation fee to the state. In compliance with G.S. § 115C-296.2, the State Board of Education established an appeals process through which an individual could request a waiver of the repayment obligation. The appeals of 33 teachers, who withdrew from the process, failed to complete the process, or failed to teach in a North Carolina public school for one year, were considered by the Appeals Panel. The Panel is recommending to the State Board of Education the approval of 17 waiver requests and the denial of 16 waiver requests.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the recommendations of the Appeals Panel.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Kevin Howell noted that discussion of this item occurred during closed session.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Ms. Jean Woolard, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 17 waiver recommendations and 16 waiver denial recommendations as recommended by the Appeals Panel. (See Attachment TCS 2)

DISCUSSION

TCS 3 – Minimize Fiscal Impact of Large Student Populations Transferring from LEAs to Charter Schools

Policy Implications: N/A

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services)

Description:

The State Board of Education asked the Department of Public Instruction to present information related to the impact on local education agencies (LEAs) of a significant shift in student enrollments from an LEA to a charter school. The Department was asked to look at population shifts that could possibly impact an LEA's ability to offer the appropriate level of services to its remaining student population. In addition, the State Board of Education requested a discussion of special provisions in the 2000 and 2001 Appropriations Bill that addressed the transfer of a significant percentage of students from a local education agency to a charter school. Session Law 2000-67 Section 8.5 included only LEAs of 3,000 or fewer students and defined the threshold percentage of students as 4%. Session Law 2001-424 included all LEAs and defined the threshold percentage of students as 5% (the provisions are attached). The Board requested a discussion of these provisions to determine if this language could be utilized to address current concerns where a significant percentage of an LEA's population attends a charter school.

Information will be distributed at the State Board meeting that will outline the impact of the 2000 and 2001 special provisions as if they were in effect in FY 2012-13. Information will also be distributed to support a discussion as to the impact of a large student population shift from an LEA to charter schools. The goal of the discussions is to determine if the State Board would like the Department to prepare a specific proposal to be presented to the General Assembly to mitigate a possible negative impact of a large student population shift.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education discuss this item to determine if they would like the Department to prepare a specific proposal to be presented to the General Assembly.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Howell noted a thorough discussion of this item during the TCS Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the April 2012 meeting and will return for action at the May meeting. (See Attachment TCS 3)

DISCUSSION

TCS 4 – NCVPS Advisory Board Membership

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCS-B-002

Presenter(s): Mr. Ross White (Executive Director, NC Virtual Public School)

Description:

Article III (d) of the North Carolina Virtual Public School Advisory Board bylaws states that new board members will be nominated by the current board members or NCVPS representatives then presented to the SBE for approval, and Article II (a) of the North Carolina Virtual Public School Advisory Board bylaws states that the North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE shall approve nominations for members of the NCVPS Advisory Board.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is asked to approve Dr. Tim Markley’s nomination for membership to the North Carolina Virtual Public School Advisory Board.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Howell noted a thorough discussion of this item during the TCS Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no discussion.

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at the April 2012 meeting and will return for action at the May meeting. (See Attachment TCS 4)

UPDATE ON CONTRACTS

(See Attachment in book)

TCS Committee Chair Kevin Howell encouraged Board members to review the contracts listed for information in the Board book.

**LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE
(Ms. Melissa Bartlett, Chair; Ms. Jean Woolard, Vice Chair)**

ACTION

LFI 1 – School-Based Calendar Waivers for Educational Purposes

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-84.2

Presenter(s): Mr. Rob Hines (Director, LEA Projects)

Description:

School-based calendar waiver requests are submitted for State Board action per G.S. § 115C-84.2. The State Board may waive the specified opening and closing dates for educational purposes that include 1) a specific school to accommodate a special program offered generally to the student body of that school,

2) a school that primarily serves a special population of students, or 3) a defined program within a school. Warren County Schools submitted these two requests for consideration by the SBE in April 2012.

Recommendations:

The State Board is requested to approve the waiver request recommendations by the Department of Public Instruction.

Discussion/Comments:

- LFI Committee Chair Bartlett noted a late change in the requests. She explained that the Board will only act on the two requests from Warren County during this meeting.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Ms. Shirley Harris, the Board voted unanimously to approve the two requests for waivers from Warren County Schools as submitted by the Department of Public Instruction. (See Attachment LFI 1)

NEW BUSINESS

Under New Business, LFI Committee Chair Melissa Bartlett reported that the LFI Committee received updates about the following business items:

- Waivers for Innovative High Schools Not Located on an IHE Campus
- NCVPS Director's Update

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Legislative Update

Ms. Ann McColl (Legislative Director)

Chairman Harrison recognized Ms. McColl to provide the legislative update.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. McColl explained that the primary purpose of this report was to discuss Driver Education. Inasmuch, Ms. McColl prefaced the conversation by putting into context the superintendent's meeting about shrinking budgets and resources. She recapped some of the conversations that occurred on Tuesday regarding the budget shortfall and its impact on the public school program in terms of failing values, common good, and equity/access. Chairman Harrison shared that the State Board of Education has the opportunity to be a voice and reshape the direction of public education in coming years, and that any future conversations should occur in the context of equity and access.

As it relates to Driver Education, Ms. McColl explained that we need to find the connections since any program that serves public school students is accountable for access, quality and tax payer value. She noted that the General Assembly has been concerned in the past that there were no standards for quality in place to consistently evaluate the programs. She provided some historical background about Driver Education, noting that the next point of conversation as it relates to Driver Education is about using money wisely through research to ensure quality. She shared a matrix that describes the delivery options including cost, quality and access. While a strategic plan is due by June 15 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, there is not enough time to conduct the research necessary to ensure quality and to consider impact issues, according to Ms. McColl. She shared that, at her request, permission was granted by Program Evaluation at the General Assembly to take a reasonable amount of time to prepare the plan. A brief discussion occurred about privatization and access. Ms. McColl asked State Board members to think about how they envision Driver Education for the future in terms of deciding the role of private providers, deciding how to measure access and equity, and the impact of our choices on poor children. Chairman Harrison suggested that this item be brought back to the HRS Committee meeting for further vetting.

Legislative Conference

Chairman Harrison reported that two members of the State Board staff recently attended the Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, sponsored by the National Association of State Boards of Education – Mr. Martez Hill (Executive Director) and Ms. Ann McColl (Legislative Director). He explained that they visited with members of the North Carolina Congressional staff to provide an overview about the priorities of the State Board.

Teacher Working Conditions Survey

Chairman Harrison reported that to date, 45,000 and/or 38 percent of the teachers have completed the survey with 15 days remaining. He asked Board members to contact LEAs in their regions to encourage participation.

Corporal Punishment

Noting that the Board received a report this past winter regarding corporal punishment, Chairman Harrison asked State Superintendent Atkinson to have staff look closely at the data and to perhaps hold conversations with those school districts where corporal punishment is still administered. He explained that while this is a local issue, the State Board's role can be to make a recommendation or adopt a resolution for the General Assembly. He would like the Board to take a position on this issue prior to the General Assembly's return in January 2013, and requested that the Department place this issue on the Board's agenda in November for discussion and action in December. Board member Tate voiced his opinion in opposition of corporal punishment and his hope that the Board takes a position sooner rather than later.

Superintendent's Meeting

Chairman Harrison thanked Superintendent Advisor Martin and his colleagues for coming to Raleigh on April 3 noting that many superintendents were actually on spring break. He shared that he anticipates getting follow-up information out to the superintendents regarding next steps. He noted a real commitment to children, concern about what we are not able to do for children as a result of the budget cuts, and real creativity in dealing with the shortfalls over several years. Chairman Harrison stated that he regrets that some want to dismiss the meeting as a political exercise, and reiterated that the convocation was about kids. He spoke briefly about Finland and how they put everything aside, including politics, to talk about education. He encouraged everyone to read the January 2012 article in *Education Week* -- *Quality Counts* noting that on pg. 63 it shows that

North Carolina is failing in school finance. Board member Greene suggested that it would be an easier sell to show what the one cent sales tax increase could buy for public schools. Chairman Harrison stated that Governor Perdue will release her budget in a couple of weeks and is asking for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cent increase and will clearly articulate where the money is going – solely to education.

Reminders

Board members were reminded that their Ethics Statements are due to the Ethics Commission by April 15 and were told that SBE staff stand ready to provide assistance to Board members as needed. Vice Chair McDevitt shared that he was advised that the Economic Development Boards are covered Boards; therefore, any Board member who serves on one of these Boards should list it where the State Board of Education is listed. Board member Bartlett added, however, that this is not the case for at-large members.

The Teacher of the Year luncheon in May will follow the State Board meeting on Thursday. Board members were asked to place this event on their calendars.

The Chairman also reminded Board members that the Principal of the Year luncheon begins today at 12:30 p.m. at the Umstead Hotel. He publicly thanked Wells Fargo for its continued support of this program which recognizes the value and importance of school leadership and school leaders. In addition, he expressed appreciation to Ms. Ann Goodnight for her many contributions and for hosting the luncheon at the Umstead Hotel.

Announcements/Reminders, and Comments

Meeting Highlights

At this time, Chairman Harrison reminded Board members that in January they held a casual conversation about highlighting, at the end of each meeting, some of the items discussed that will have a direct impact on students. At that time, Chairman Harrison decided to implement a new tradition under his leadership of having a brief conversation each month to identify in very specific terms something the Board has accomplished to improve outcomes for children. Board members cited the following: continued to elevate the dialogue and point out consequences to all decisions via the Superintendent's meeting on Tuesday; the Teacher Working Condition's Survey; advocating and championing for those causes that benefit children, i.e., Halifax County Schools; and the focus of our literacy plan (federal grant). Principal Advisor Jackson also expressed appreciation for the three students who volunteered their time this week.

Chairman Harrison noted that the Communications Office is working through the video clips to develop something that can be shared with districts and constituents.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chair McDevitt announced that the Global Education Task Force will meet on April 11. Chairman Harrison asked for an update on the work of the task force during the May SBE meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Indicating no other business, Chairman Harrison requested a motion to adjourn. Upon motion by Ms. Melissa Bartlett, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the April 4-5, 2012, meeting of the State Board of Education.